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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/960,662	09/22/2001	Robert H. Gore	50773	5996

21874 7590 11/19/2004  
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EXAMINER

ZALUKAEVA, TATYANA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1713

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/960,662

Applicant(s)

GORE ET AL.

Examiner

Tatyana Zalukaeva

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1713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8,9 and 33-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,8,9,33-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/30/2004 has been entered.

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 33-35 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allen et al (U.S. 6,420,441).

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Allen discloses method for making a plurality of solution crosslinked polymer particles (col.3, line 59) with the mean particle size in the range of 1 nm –1000 nm (col.3, lines 65-66), preferably 1-200 nm (col.4, line 1) by copolymerizing ethylenically unsaturated monomers listed in col.4, lines 21-67, col.5, lines 1-6) and other monomers listed in col, 5 and 6 with suitable crosslinking agents, which are multiethylenically unsaturated agents and presented in col.8, lines 25-55. Suitable polymers as porogen particles are listed in the paragraph bridging col.8 and 9. These polymers composed of monomers readable on all the monomers and crosslinking agents of the instant claims.

With regard to the steps of the process as claimed, Allen discloses a specific process wherein the solution polymers are generally prepared by **first charging a solvent heel** to a reaction vessel equipped with a stirrer, a thermometer and a reflux condenser. The monomer mixture is typically composed of monomer, initiator and chain transfer agent, as appropriate. The **solvent heel is heated** with stirring under a nitrogen blanket to a temperature from about 55C. to about 125C. After the **heel charge has reached a temperature sufficient to initiate polymerization, the monomer mixture** is charged to the reaction vessel over a period of 15 minutes to 4 hours while maintaining the reaction at the desired reaction temperature. **After completing the monomer mixture addition, a series of additional aliquots of initiator in solvent are charged to the reaction.** Typically, the initiator is charged to the reaction and followed by a hold period to allow for reaction to occur before adding the next initiator amount. Typically three initiator additions are used. After the final initiator amount is added the batch is held for 30 minutes to 4 hours to fully decompose all initiator and

drive the reaction to completeness. This reads on all the steps of the process of the instant claims 1 and 33.

With specific regard to the particle size polydispersity, it is a base presumption that this property will inherently and necessarily flow from the identity of both polymers per se, their particle sizes and chemical make-up, as well from the identity of the process by which these monomers are obtained. Products of identical chemical composition cannot have mutually exclusive properties. A chemical composition and its properties are inseparable. Therefore if the prior art teaches the identical chemical structure, the properties and characteristics applicant discloses and/or claims are necessarily present. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705,709,15 USPQ2d 1655,1658 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tatyana Zalukaeva whose telephone number is (571) 272-1115. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tatyana Zalukaeva  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1713

November 14, 2004

